

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
May 10, 2010**

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Earl S. Beck, PhD	Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec	David Gray, Comm		Stephanie Fletcher
Rae Ann Butler	Carolyn True	Diane Julian		
Cristina Donahue- Taylor		Louise Lynch		
Millard Haines		Margaret Nusbaum		
Lloyd Hoover		Burt Shawver		
Jim Judd				
Ona M. John Kile				
Carol Krimm, Alderman				
Patricia McGill				
Virginia Skelley				
Robert Wannemacher				
Stephen Wilhide				

- I. Call to Order – RaeAnn Butler, Vice Chair,** called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – – RaeAnn welcomed all attendees. One guest was introduced. Stephanie Fletcher is an occupational therapist from Frederick Memorial Hospital.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – - The minutes of the April 12, 2010 meeting were approved. All were in favor.
- IV. **Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray was unable to attend today's meeting.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Krimm brought a document to today's meeting which indicates legislation that has passed which affects seniors. One piece, passed several years ago, permitted local government to give property tax credits to seniors of limited income on a principal place of residence. However, Frederick County will not adopt this process due to lack of funding.

There will be a grant workshop at Frederick City Hall on May 13. There will be lots of new information available. There will also be a chance to network and share knowledge and ideas.

- V. **Follow up Steps from the April strategic planning discussion, All** – A two page document which includes the Annual Report and Recommendations for the BoCC was reviewed. This document will be presented to the BoCC this year. The general consensus is that the need for data is the most significant issue facing this commission. There are large pockets of information in the community that would be helpful if it were accessible for compilation. Privacy issues make it difficult to get information from other entities. It will be suggested that the BoCC support a department-wide effort to assess needs of the local senior population. It is important to know the current needs and future needs for senior residents. Changes to the recommendations document were suggested. A revised copy will be distributed before presentation to the BoCC. Commission members should plan to attend this presentation. It will be held on June 15th at 8:30 am in the 3rd floor hearing room of Winchester Hall.

There was much discussion regarding medical data and what needs are current for seniors in this area. There is a considerable lack of geriatricians in this area. Discharges and lack of home health care are problematic and leads to readmission to the hospital.

Discussion concerning continuation of holding CoA meetings at senior centers, All – There was some discussion whether to continue holding meetings at other senior centers. It was decided that visits by members should continue with reports back to this commission. However, all future meetings for this year will be held at the Frederick

Senior Center at 1:00 pm. Guests are always welcome to these meetings.

Update on Candidates' Forum, Raeann Butler - There will not be a candidates' forum for senior issues this year. Members are encouraged to attend other forums and ask senior specific questions from the floor. Louise will help form questions if anyone is interested.

USM Update, Virginia Skelley – Copies of the most recent newsletter were distributed. A copy of a page from the National Enquirer was distributed which contained an article regarding the volunteer program Partner's in Care. It was on the Acts of Kindness page and generated needed donations for the organization.

There was also a presentation at the USM meeting by BG&E regarding energy choice and how making a change could save you money. You could purchase energy from an alternate source at a reduced rate, but still receive your bill from BG&E. Information is available on the State of Maryland website.

Liaisons for PiC and Affordable Housing, RaeAnn Butler – Burt Shawver has volunteered to be the commission liaison for Partner's in Care. Ginny Skelley volunteered to unofficially be the liaison for Affordable Housing Council and bring information to this commission. She is unable to attend the meetings. Jim Judd may be interested in becoming liaison for the Housing Council in the future.

VI. Nomination Committee – Recommendation to fill vacancy, Earl Beck – The Nominating Committee recently interviewed three potential candidates for the one open position on this Commission. They recommend Hal Ehart for membership. Hal has been a member in the recent past. A motion was put forth by Rae Ann Butler to accept the recommendation of the appointment and seconded by Ginney Skelley. All were in favor.

Election of two at large members to service on the CoA Executive Committee, All - There is a need for at large members on the Executive Committee. The obligation is a monthly meeting the last Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm. They are also able to make decisions for the Commission between monthly meetings. John Kile and Stephen Wilhide volunteered to join the Executive Committee.

Discussion concerning self evaluation document, All – This document was sent out in advance of today's meeting. Documents that were completed were turned in for compilation. There was discussion on the questions and how members view the Commission and their individual responsibilities. Some new members were unable to form an overall opinion or respond to the questionnaire. The

Commission members should be out in the community engaging with seniors and senior organizations to bring information back. Members should also actively advocate for seniors who are sometimes unable to advocate for themselves and be an advocate for the DoA when funding issues become more significant. The DoA will need to submit its area plan in August of this year. Carolyn will bring a copy of the plan to the June or July meeting to get the commission's input.

There will be a statewide CoA meeting on June 8th. Louise, Raeann, and Carolyn will be attending this meeting. The state CoA will be promoting regional meetings. This would allow for networking and sharing of ideas.

VII. Director's Report – Carolyn True

The monthly report for April 2010 was distributed. This report includes stats for the DoA programs. The last page of this report is a summary of federal programs. All programs are stable and growing, especially Information and Assistance.

There will be a Health Fair at the Emmitsburg Community Center on May 14th from 10:00am until 2:00pm. There will be demonstrations and healthcare information available.

The DoA has submitted two grant application requests. The second grant request would support the Senior Health Information program.

Partner's in Care, which is a non profit 501(3)(c) organization, has had a decrease in donations.. Therefore the Frederick full time coordinator for that program will be taking one furlough day each pay period starting this month until the end of this calendar year. The CEO has taken a fifty percent cut in pay in order to keep the program going.

There is a new program called Centers without Walls. This program is for homebound clients so they can participate via conference calls. It is a goal to establish a similar program for our MOW clients and other homebound seniors.

There was a suggestion that Carolyn be first on the agenda on a quarterly basis so that more time would be allowed for reporting and discussion of DoA activities and programs. Carolyn reiterated that she is readily available for questions regarding the department programs if anyone would like to schedule a time to meet.

VIII. Announcements, All – No announcements were made at this meeting.

IX. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Frederick County Commission on Aging
5/10/2010

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

June 14, 2010 - Commission on Aging, 1 pm at the Frederick Senior Center,
Frederick, MD 21702

May 25, 2010 COA Executive Meeting, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center